and would be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

(c) Lok Adalats are not regularly constituted law courts. They are voluntary efforts for resolution of disputes through cnciliation and persuasion. Lok Adalats are being organised by the State Legas Aid 7 Advice Boards and District legal Aid Committees etc. from in different parts of the country.

Investement by Foreign Companies

1778. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government have recently changed the policy inviting foreign companies to invest and open their branhes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of offices of foreign companies in the country as on December 31, 1991; and

(d) the net amount of foreign exchange brought into the country by these companies during 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Till recently only Airlines and shipping companies were allowed to open branches on reciprocal basis. However, according to the Press Reslease issued by the RBI on 29th January, 1992, foreign companies would be permitted to open branch offices on receipt of applications from them by the RBI. No guidelines have been formulated by the RBI so far.

(c) The number of Airlines having branches in India is 54 and number of shipping companies/Shipping Register is 8.

(d) The Airlines and shipping Companies do not normally bring in foreign exchange.

[English]

Export of Castings

1779. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope for increasing the export of castings;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade casting technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Export of castings have been on the increase as the following figures would indicate:-

Rs. Crores

1988-89	*1989-90*	*1990-91*
47	97	180

EEPC has set a target of Rs. 205 crores for export of castings during 1991-92.

(b) to (d). Apart from substantial liberalisation of industrial and trade policies oriented particularly towards increasing India's exports, specifically for the castings sector, the Goveernment has constituted an extreme focus group to suggest strategy for achieving increased growth in their exports. Through the liberalisation effected in industrial policy, the Government have facilitated

import of technology. It is expected that the casting industry will avail itself of these facilities to upgrade their technology.

Loss of Excise Duty

1780. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of Government revenue in the form of excise duty due to notices sustained and or withdrawn on account of the amendment to the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944, during each of the years from 1988-89 to 1990-91; and

(b) the break up of the above loss on account of notices ordered withdrawn due to limitations by Assistant Collector, Appellate Collector, High Courts and Supreme Court, separately year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). During the years from 1988-89 to 1990-91, no amendments were made to the Central Excises & Salt Act, 1944 so as to cause withdrawl of confirmation or demand notices already issued. there was no loss of revenue on this account.

Loss of Excise Duty due to Non-transfer of Cases

1781. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loss of revenue due to non-action on the cases required to be transferred to the Central Excise collectors in terms of Section 8 of the Central Excise and Salt (Amendment) Act, 1985; and

(b) the loss of revenue on account of cases not decided by the Central Excise collectors even after trasfer under the above provision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). As required under Section 8 of the Central Excises & Salt (Amendment) Act, 1985, cases were transferred to the collectors of Central Excise for adjudication. In view of the quasi-judicial nature of the proceedings, it cannot be said that there is any loss of revenue during the time taken for adjudication of cases.

[*Translation*]

Export of Wheat

1782. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat exported during 1991-92;

(b) whether the Government propose to export wheat during 1992-93 also;

(c) if so, the quantity thereof; and

(d) the countries to which the export is proposed to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) During the period from 1st April, 1991 to 20th February, 1992, 6,72,600 MTs of wheat has been exported.

(b) to (d). No decision on the quantity of wheat to be exported during 1992-93 has been taken.

[*English*]

Selection of Sportsmen in Nationalised Banks

1783. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: